

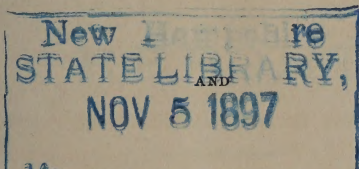




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,



SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF WEBSTER,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1873.

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CONCORD, N. H.:

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1873.





# REPORT.

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Whole amount of taxes committed to the collector for 1872, was	\$4,266.46
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The collector has discharged himself as follows :

Paid town treasurer, cash, abatements, and receipts for non-resident highway taxes worked out,	4,097.00
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Amount due from collector,	\$169.46
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## RECEIPTS.

Received of former treasurer,	\$205.76
Geo. Little, on collection 1869,	30.63
C. A. Stone, " 1870,	61.23
" " 1871,	377.29
D. C. Hubbard, " 1872,	4,097.00
State treasurer, State bonds,	6,300.00
" interest on State bonds,	378.00
" Savings Bank tax,	627.67
" Railroad tax,	193.67
" Literary fund,	61.60
J. Fernald, money hired,	1,000.00
Liquor agent, cash,	15.00

Total receipts,	\$13,347.85
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## SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES.

Paid miscellaneous bills,	\$207.18
Roads and bridges,	494.03
School money,	926.36
Support of paupers,	264.70
State and county tax,	1,573.21
Notes and interest,	1,046.28
Bonds and interest,	1,868.49
Non-resident highway tax paid in labor,	52.97
Abatement of taxes,	75.46
Town officers,	221.69
Cash in treasury,	290.48
“ “ dog tax,	27.00
State bonds in treasury,	6,300.00
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Amount balancing receipts,	\$13,347.85

## DETAILED ACCOUNT OF EXPENDITURES.

## MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Paid Morrill & Silsby, books and stationery,	\$6.35
C. A. Stone, services as superintending school committee in 1871,	48.00
C. F. Blanchard, work on dam,	1.50
Harris Goodwin, refreshments,	3.00
N. M. Noyes, digging graves,	4.00
Republican Press Association, printing reports,	30.00
Perley Jackman, digging graves,	6.50
Warde, Humphrey & Dodge, spikes,	1.50
W. P. Ford & Co., scraper,	10.00
Perley Jackman, work on cemetery,	1.50
C. C. Kimball, water,	3.00
Hollis Jackman, work on town house,	1.00
“ “ cemetery,	2.00
“ gate for “	1.00
“ repairing hearse house,	.64
“ digging graves,	7.00
T. J. Courser, notifying town officers,	3.00

Paid O. H. Fitts, water,	2.00
Thomas Elliott, water,	2.50
B. W. Sanborn, stationery,	1.33
C. C. Kimball, services as selectman, 1871,	4.65
A. C. Sweatt, " "	2.25
P. F. S. Clarke, " "	2.25
Albe C. Sweatt, horse hire, car fare, and expenses out of town,	23.70
Paul F. S. Clarke, expenses out of town,	19.00
Wm. W. Burbank, " "	8.75
Atherton Sweatt, board and room rent,	9.26
A. C. Sweatt, postage, &c.,	1.50
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	\$207.18

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid J. A. Flanders, work on road,	\$6.45
W. A. Huntoon, "	4.78
C. D. Glitten, "	4.80
J. B. Chase, bridge irons,	1.00
N. M. Noyes, work on road,	2.25
F. A. Shepard, "	6.75
R. E. French, "	.75
Edmund Silver, "	11.00
J. F. Sanborn, "	5.40
Hollis Jackman, "	1.50
Paul Pillsbury, "	5.25
H. H. & J. L. Gerrish, "	36.16
Alfred Provo, "	.75
Lewis Silver, "	31.50
W. P. Elliott, "	1.00
O. H. Fitts, "	8.12
T. J. Courser, "	9.00
Thomas Kilburn, "	16.54
" plank and timber for bridge,	12.03
J. Q. Adams, snowing bridge,	2.80
True Eastman, work on road,	3.00
C. E. Putney, "	11.30
C. C. Kimball, "	27.50



Paid P. R. Steavens, work on road,	22.35
Hiram Roby, "	3.00
S. C. Hanson, "	13.50
F. L. Burbank & Son, plank,	26.84
H. F. Pearson, work on road,	1.50
F. S. Putney, "	8.25
Samuel Bailey, "	9.00
W. W. Austin, "	30.75
" plank and timber,	25.20
J. L. Gerrish, " "	2.32
P. F. S. Clarke, work on road and bridges,	115.00
A. C. Sweatt, " "	6.94
W. W. Burbank, " "	6.75
L. A. Rice, work on road,	13.00
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	\$494.03

## SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid Atherton Sweatt,	Dist. No. 1,	\$77.61
Freeman Corser,	" 2,	79.46
H. F. Pearson,	" 3,	122.86
B. S. Stone,	" 4,	69.11
Tristram Sanborn,	" 5,	53.34
F. B. Sawyer,	" 6,	130.42
L. A. Rice,	" 7,	72.15
C. C. Kimball,	" 8,	169.78
Thomas Elliott,	" 9,	142.55
H. A. Sargent,	" 10,	9.08
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		\$926.36

## SUPPORT OF PAUPERS.

Paid N. H. Asylum, support of M. Sawyer,	\$215.45
Pearson & Little, goods for I. Jackman,	45.25
Edmund Silver, wood for I. Jackman,	4.00
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	\$264.70

## STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

Paid State tax,	\$847.21
County tax,	726.00
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	\$1,573.21



## NOTES AND INTEREST.

Paid J. Fernald, note and interest,	\$1,014.00
School Dist. No. 8, Boscawen, interest on note,	11.28
I. D. Merrill, interest on note,	18.00
Calvin Morrill, " "	3.00
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	\$1,046.28
Non-resident highway tax paid in labor,	\$52.97

## BONDS AND INTEREST.

Paid bond No. 2,	\$100.00
" 3,	50.00
" 5,	50.00
" 6,	50.00
" 6,	100.00
" 7,	50.00
" 14,	100.00
" 15,	100.00
" 16,	100.00
Interest on bonds,	1,168.49
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	\$1,868.49

## ABATEMENTS.

Paid abatements for 1869,	\$6.23
" 1870,	33.92
" 1871,	5.31
" 1872,	30.00
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	\$75.46

## TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Albe C. Sweatt, services as selectman and overseer of the poor,	\$56.55
Paul F. S. Clarke, services as selectman and overseer of the poor,	51.00

Paid Wm. W. Burbank, services as selectman and overseer of the poor,	35.75
Albe C. Sweatt, treasurer's salary,	20.00
Atherton Sweatt, town clerk,	18.39
D. C. Hubbard, collector,	40.00
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	\$221.69

### DEBT OF THE TOWN, MARCH 1, 1873.

In bonds,	\$16,250.00
In notes, Phebe Noyes,	85.76
John Stone,	38.00
Calvin Morrill,	50.00
School District No. 8, Boscawen,	180.00
I. D. Merrill,	300.00
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	\$16,911.76

### ASSETS.

Due from the State, volunteer bounties advanced in 1864,	\$1,168.00
Due from C. A. Stone, on collection of 1871,	192.60
Due from D. C. Hubbard, on collection of 1872,	169.46
Stock in hands of liquor agent,	148.87
State bonds,	6,300.00
Cash in treasury,	290.48
Cash in treasury, dog tax,	27.00
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	\$8,296.41
Balance against the town,	\$8,615.35

ALBE C. SWEATT,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
PAUL F. S. CLARKE,	
WILLIAM W. BURBANK,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>Webster.</i>

REPORT  
OF THE  
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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*To the Citizens of the town of Webster :*

Your superintending school committee submit the following report :

By reference to the proceedings of the annual meeting of March, 1872, you will find the town refused to raise any money for schools beyond the amount required by law ; which action did not show that the amount raised was all the tax-payers could afford, but did show that, in your opinion, it was amply sufficient to meet all the requirements of our schools.

In that action of the town, each voter, as in duty bound before acting, took into consideration the increased value of labor, mental as well as physical—the fact that persons competent to give the desired instruction could command higher wages than they could a few years ago, and therefore incompetent teachers must be employed or shorter



schools be the result. Not only were these things duly considered, but the fact that an education more thorough and practical will be required to secure to the children of Webster the place in the social and business world which we desire them to occupy. Then, with the assurance that the money appropriated for the several school districts has been judiciously applied, you must be satisfied.

The character of your schools is necessarily primary: though there may be pupils in some or all of them who would rank with the best in grammar or high schools, the primary pupils are always there. The law recognizes them as primary schools in the branches required to be taught.

Children who know nothing of letters can be taught through the perceptive faculties better than in any other way. Letters upon blocks may be of great use in teaching the alphabet, and the construction of words and sentences; numeral frames, for teaching counting; yet nothing of the kind has been furnished for the use of teachers. Miss Anna Curtice, an apprentice from the State Normal School, whose services as teacher were obtained in District No. 2, for the summer term, for a less sum per week than is usually paid to good house help, or is received by many operatives in factories, recognized the aid such means would afford her, and, as the parents of her pupils can testify, used them with success. Stepping outside of her text books, she gave much practical instruction by teaching her pupils to observe those things that are very common, yet seldom noticed by children, and even by many of maturer years,—such as the trees common with us, and their use,—articles common among us, and where found or manufactured. Such instruction was worth more than the price paid. The children were taught to think. The

same district was fortunate in securing the services of Miss Addie T. Little for the winter term, who recognized also the importance of teaching through the perceptive faculties, and of oral instruction.

One of the greatest evils the teacher has to contend with is reading books beyond the capacity of the pupil. When neither the subject nor language is understood, the pupil can make no advancement in reading. The result is a stumbling effort to read as fast as other members of the class, embarrassment, and an injury rather than good. We found that evil in District No. 9. (Not only there but in all schools.) Parents are not always to blame for putting the wrong books into the hands of their children. We found in that district Miss Mary E. Whittier, a teacher not without honor even among her own people. She was successful in her endeavors to correct the evil. Her efforts were continued by Mr. Batchellor during the winter term. The result was a decided improvement in some of the reading classes. Miss W.'s instruction was calculated to develop the reasoning powers. Unless pupils are taught to think, a parrot-like repetition of the text is worth but little. Mr. Batchellor's success with a class in primary arithmetic was very pleasing.

The united length of summer and winter terms was seventeen and one half weeks. The expense per pupil for the entire term was less than seven dollars, a sum that would pay only the board of a single pupil two weeks at a boarding-school. Did you have all you desired? Had you raised money sufficient to have had twenty-five weeks instead of seventeen and a half, it then would have cost only the board of three weeks.

Knowing an isolated fact is not education. Before it can be of practical use, we must know its relation to other

parts—a truth comprehended by Mr. Melvin T. Stone in District No. 4, and employed in his teaching. Successful effort was made to teach the products of the north Mississippi valley ; more especially their use to us, and the best means of transportation hither. In his report, Mr. Stone says,—“ The school has tried to improve the time by close attention to study, while some few have been given to idleness. I have tried to fulfil the part of a teacher with satisfaction.” The closing exercises gave evidence that he had succeeded in his endeavors. The attendance of some of the pupils was very irregular, and the result just as manifest.

The summer term of District No. 8 was taught by Miss L. Jennie Call. Wages per month, including board, eighteen dollars. For that mere pittance, Miss Call worked as hard and as faithfully as if her wages had been commensurate with the work expected. The winter term is now in session ; teacher, Miss Mary E. Whittier, who possesses the confidence of her pupils and their parents. By their united efforts, we may be sure that the result will be as good as they have a right to expect. Here, as in District No. 9, she has succeeded in arranging her classes to her satisfaction, which is a foundation of success. Her efficient effort to improve her reading classes was much needed, for it is a lamentable truth, patent in all the schools in town, that reading has been neglected, or imperfectly taught.

F. F. FISK.

CORSER HILL, No. 3. Summer Term.—Miss E. M. Buxton, teacher. Length of school, 8 1-2 weeks ; number of scholars, 25 ; average attendance, 22.

During this term the teacher performed a large amount



of work successfully. The improvement of the school was good.

Winter term.—Miss Lucy A. Sawyer, teacher. Length of the school, 11 weeks; wages of the teacher, including board, \$30; number of scholars, 29; average attendance, 23 3-5.

Miss Sawyer proved herself to be a faithful and competent teacher. Most of her scholars, some of whom were in the higher branches, including Latin, made good improvement. A few of her scholars, by idleness and insubordination, were an injury to the school.

SANBORN HILL, No. 5. Summer Term.—Miss Ida M. Whittier, teacher. Length of school, 7 1-2 weeks; wages per month, including board, \$13; number of scholars, 8; average attendance, 7 3-4.

This term of schooling was to a considerable degree profitable. It being Miss Whittier's first attempt at teaching, her interest and success in it were commendable.

Winter Term.—The same teacher. Length of school, 8 weeks; wages of the teacher, including board, \$14; number of scholars, 8; average attendance, 6 3-4.

The school was satisfactory; but the term, being shortened a few days by the sickness of the teacher, was not visited at its close.

LITTLE HILL, No. 6. Summer Term.—Miss Clara A. Putney, teacher. Length of school, 9 weeks; wages per month, including board, \$24; number of scholars, 14; average attendance, 12.

This was a profitable term of schooling, creditable to both teacher and scholars.

Winter Term.—Miss Lucy A. Sawyer, teacher. Length

of the school, 11 weeks; wages, including board, per month, \$26; number of scholars, 13; average attendance, 11 1-10.

This term, on the part of teacher and scholars, was very satisfactory.

WHITE PLAIN, No. 7. Summer Term.—Miss Martha George, teacher. Length of school, 10 weeks; number of scholars, 9; average attendance, 8.

This term of schooling was creditable to both teacher and scholars. Its mental, social, and moral influence was good.

Winter Term.—Miss Clara A. Putney, teacher. Length of school, 9 weeks; wages per month, including board, \$24; number of scholars, 12; average attendance, 10.

This was a successful term, with marked improvement in some of the branches.

E. BUXTON.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

Our common schools demand of us an ever awakening, sacred, and practical interest. Our children stand in the foreground as objects of interest to parents, to the community, to the State, and to the cause of civil and religious liberty, and of popular institutions of government. The purity and perpetuity of our national institutions must be grounded in the education which we give our children. It is the common school education of the masses of the people which is essential to our establishments as a free, prosperous, Christian nation. That any common school should, through mismanagement or neglect, prove a failure, is therefore to be very greatly deprecated. Every community should watch over its school with a zealous care for the intellectual, social, and moral culture of their children.

They must demand for their children good and impartial school government. They must expect their teachers to maintain such government, and sustain them in so doing. They must expect and require that their school-room be a place of discipline, devoted to the acquirement of self-control, to study and instruction, with cheerful compliance with necessary rules and regulations, and with quietness and stillness. All profaneness, indecent behavior, and insubordination to the authority of the teacher must be banished from our schools. For the accomplishment of this object, there must be a power of public sentiment and the co-operative influence of the district, sustaining both the teacher and the school committee in the faithful discharge of their appropriate duties.

By a new apportionment of the public tax and the non-application of the dog tax for the use of schools, the



amount of school money for 1873 will be about \$125 less than it was in 1872.

We would recommend that the sum of \$200, in addition to the amount required by law, be raised for the use of schools the present year, which would be about \$75 more than that of 1872. An increase of tax is not burdensome.

FRIEND F. FISK,  
EDWARD BUXTON,

*Superintending School Committee.*

Webster, Feb. 20, 1873.



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Jan. 24





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